

From: Tom Ulrich
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 2:36pm
Subject: Microsoft Case Concerns

Please see the attached letter with comments and concerns.

Thank you.

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft

Why is there hesitation in Washington to finalize the settlement in the Microsoft case? The cost to the taxpayers of this nation for the government's attacks on one of our nation's most successful companies has been enormous. Not only have we funded what appears to be a vindictive attack via our tax dollars; we have watched billions or trillions of dollars in value evaporate from our personal investments, our profit sharing programs, and our retirement and mutual funds as the market values of Microsoft and other technology related firms fell precipitously as a direct result of the government's illogical efforts.

I'm just a middle class American and a small time investor, but the losses on just the 200 shares of Microsoft stock I owned was nearly equivalent to one-year's tuition and board for my daughter at Miami University. That is not an insignificant amount to me, and it is the Justice Department I have viewed though this process as the "enemy" of the consumer, not Microsoft! The posturing of the Department and that of many state attorney generals lining up for their "dibs" reminds me a bunch of blood sucking parasites.

My suspicion is that there must be BIG MONEY SPECIAL INTERESTS that prodded the original investigations and that must continue to do so, and that disturbs me. In a market economy, the government generally should not take "sides" in commercial and marketing issues Letting Microsoft get back to business would significantly help end the recession; spending tax money on more litigation certainly would not help the national recovery.

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I run a small business and have been a Microsoft user since the mid-80s. I have been using Microsoft not because they were a monopoly holding a gun to my head, but because they have created decent and useful products. We don't use them for all our needs; and in fact use Novell and IBM/Lotus for our networking requirements because of their features and benefits. I don't like their latest "activation" policies on XP products, but not once have I felt "trapped" or "manipulated" into having to buy, use or upgrade Microsoft products.

Please – can't we, for the public good, just get this case over with, and let Microsoft and others in the industry get back to the business of computers.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ulrich

cc: Senator Mike DeWine